

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method of making high strength paper or paperboard comprising the steps of:

adding a high modulus filler to an aqueous pulp slurry to form a modified pulp slurry; and

forming the modified pulp slurry into paper or paperboard.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the filler has a modulus of at least 0.1 GPa.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the filler has a modulus of at least 3 GPa.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of polymers, glass fibers, clay nanoplatelets, carbon fibers, silicon carbide fibers and alumina fibers.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the filler has an aspect ratio of at least 50.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein a thermosetting resin is also added to the aqueous pulp slurry prior to the forming step.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the resin has a glass transition temperature higher than the service temperature.
8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the resin has a glass transition temperature of at least 85C.
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the resin is selected from the group consisting of melamine, PAE, phenolic resins, phenol-formaldehyde, and anionic and

cationic polymers.

10. (Withdrawn) A paperboard made according to the method of claim 2.
11. (Withdrawn) A paperboard made according to the method of claim 3.
12. (Withdrawn) A paperboard made according to the method of claim 7.
13. (Withdrawn) A paperboard made according to the method of claim 8.
14. (Currently amended) A method of making high strength paper or paperboard

comprising the steps of:

coating a filler selected from the group consisting of clay nanoplatelets, carbon fibers, silicon carbide fibers and alumina fibers with a resin matrix selected from the group consisting of melamine, PAE (polyamide-polyamine-epichlorohydrin), phenolic resins, anionic polymers and cationic polymers;

adding the coated filler to an aqueous pulp slurry to form a modified pulp slurry;

and

forming the modified pulp slurry into paper or paperboard.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the filler has a modulus of at least 0.1 GPa.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the filler has a modulus of at least 3 GPa.
17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the filler is [glass] carbon fiber.
18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the resin is hydrophilic.
19. (Original) A paper or paperboard made according to the method of claim 14.
20. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the filler is clay nanoplatelets.

21. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the filler is silicon carbide fibers.
22. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the filler is alumina fibers.
23. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the filler has an aspect ratio of at least 50.